

March 5, 1976

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Whenever Senator DeCamp and Senator Rasmussen agree it's time for somebody to stand up. I'd like to ask Senator Rasmussen a question.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Certainly.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Now you refer to the Norton Dam project.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Is this by any chance the small crack in the glacier that might result in a ripple becoming a torrent and eventually rushing down the valley into the terrible recesses of Missouri that might possibly cause some construction to begin up there that would result in additional funding being demanded in future years?

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: You mean the dam going out?

SENATOR SCHMIT: The dam going in is what worries me.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: I think these amendments were placed on your desks, Senator Schmit. I think if you will notice in there it says "within the limits of available funding and subject to funds being made available. There's no set figure of dollars in here. It's whatever is available to the Game Commission. The Reclamation Bureau will accept this without a dollar ... without concrete figures. I think we should adopt the amendment and send the bill on its way. I can't see that this is opening any doors for a large amount of funds.

SENATOR SCHMIT: You say the Reclamation Bureau will accept the money without any?

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: No, they will accept this amendment and this bill without any specific amount of dollars. They will accept it. The limits that will be spent will be whatever we have available.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I'm sure they would. Thank you Senator Rasmussen.

Never let it be said that I'm not in favor of conservation. I think that the members of this body probably would agree with me that you gentlemen have a worthwhile project. I think that we should be aware of the fact that we are embarking upon something here that does have some overtones of expense in future years and does represent an area of the state that deserves some development. When that area receives certain funds and the development proceeds then I think we should recognize and acknowledge that perhaps other areas of the state might be in need of special attention also.

So I would endorse your amendment, Senator Rasmussen, and endorse the bill.